

# CENSUS 2010

## BROCKTON MAKES IT COUNT!

It is vitally important to our city and our schools that the Census 2010 is accurate and that every Brockton citizen is counted. Population and need are the basis for apportioning more than \$400 billion in federal funding to cities and schools, so it is incumbent upon us to help the US Census get a complete and accurate count.

The Brockton Public Schools is helping in this effort by teaching students about the Census – why the framers of the Constitution called for a count of all Americans every 10 years, how it apportions seats in the US House of Representatives, and how all of the data collected is used to study population trends.

“The Census is incredibly important to our schools because it is one of the tools used to determine grant funding. But its more than that, it’s a historical record of the people who live in our communities, it’s a snapshot in time and we want to make sure Census 2010 is as successful as possible,” said Superintendent of Schools Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D. “Brockton teachers and staff will be working in the coming months to impress upon on our students the importance of taking part in the Census. We need everyone to be counted – EVERYONE!”

Schools can greatly assist in making the Census successful by teaching students about its uses, said Mary Osorio, Partnership Assistant for the US Census in Southeastern Massachusetts. These lessons are especially important in immigrant communities like Brockton, where adults often don’t understand what the Census is about or are suspicious of filling out government forms.

“The information the Census gathers is totally confidential, so residents should feel free to share information about their households and themselves,” Osorio said.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to apportion congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census form will be one of the shortest in U.S. history, consisting of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the respondents and the information they provide

For more information, please visit [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools)